

Fair Tonight; Sunday  
Probably Rain.

# The Washington Times

FULL FINANCIAL REPORTS  
FINAL EDITION  
New York Market Closing Prices.

NUMBER 7411,

Yesterday's Circulation, 51,597.

WASHINGTON, SATURDAY EVENING, APRIL 6, 1912

Sixteen Pages.

PRICE ONE CENT.

## TAFT FORCES SEE STRENGTH FAST WANING

Grasping at Last Straws in  
Effort to Boost  
Cause.

## ROOSEVELT GAINING IN NORTH AND WEST

Methods of Treatment of Contests  
Will Decide Convention  
Control.

By JUDSON C. WELLIVER.

To what an extent the control of the coming Republican national convention will be contested after the convention actually meets, was made plain today than ever before. Both the Roosevelt and Taft headquarters issued their weekly "claim sheets" showing their appraisal of delegate strength to date, and casual comparison of these indicates that a historic struggle for possession of the party and the convention is surely in preparation.

The tremendous divergence between the claims of either side and the concessions of the other, with the daily increasing evidence of the determination of both to fight to a finish, is the ground for strengthening conviction that a historic crisis is at hand.

### Claims of Rivals.

Today's tabulation from the Roosevelt headquarters placed 66 delegates in the Roosevelt column and 28 in the Taft column. Cummins is given 4, La Follette 26, 36 are set down as uncommitted, and 116 as contested.

On the other hand the Taft managers say they have 280 for Taft, concede 26 to Roosevelt, 36 to La Follette, and 4 to Cummins.

Between these two antipodal claims, the real difference is in the treatment of contests. The Taft people put in their column everything for which they have a shadow of excuse to make claim. They ignore contests, and assume that all of the office-holding, machine-made delegates of the South will be seated to vote for Taft.

### Situation in Michigan.

The best information from Michigan is that, outside Wayne county (Detroit), the Roosevelt people have about 90 majority of the delegates to the State convention. The convention will be held at Bay City next Thursday. Wayne county is entitled to 12 delegates; therefore, the Roosevelt people will have an overwhelming majority in the State convention, provided they get Wayne; if they lose it, Taft will have about 100 majority in the State convention.

This is exactly what happened in Indiana. Marion county (Indianapolis) bears the same relation to Indiana that Wayne county bears to Michigan. Whichever faction secured the Marion delegation would control the Indiana convention, whichever secured Wayne county will control Michigan.

### WEATHER REPORT.

FORECAST FOR THE DISTRICT.  
Fair and continued warm tonight; Sunday increasing cloudiness, probably followed by showers and cooler Sunday afternoon or night.

TEMPERATURES.  
U. S. BUREAU. APRIL 6, 1912.  
8 a. m. 55 8 a. m. 55  
9 a. m. 61 9 a. m. 61  
10 a. m. 63 10 a. m. 63  
11 a. m. 65 11 a. m. 65  
12 noon 67 12 noon 67  
1 p. m. 69 1 p. m. 69  
2 p. m. 71 2 p. m. 71

TIDE TABLE.  
Today—High tide, 11:35 a. m. and 11:48 p. m.; low tide, 5:21 a. m. and 5:53 p. m.  
Tomorrow—High tide, 12:02 a. m.; low tide, 6:10 a. m. and 6:42 p. m.

SUN TABLE.  
Sun rises 6:49 Sun sets 6:28

**DARKNESS  
AND  
DAWN**  
Begins Today on Page 10

## MEXICO'S DEBT, DUE TO WARS, IS BILLION DOLLARS

Successive Revolutions Have  
Left Distracted Nation in  
Pitiable Shape.

## ALL INDUSTRY IS AT A STANDSTILL

Foreign Companies Bitter Against  
United States for Not  
Interfering.

The Mexican government already

faces a debt of \$1,000,000,000 as the result of the revolution and there is every indication that the staggering mountain of debt will reach an even higher figure before the uprising is quelled.

This estimate, which is made by a representative of the United States Government who has just returned from the southern republic, is based on an investigation of the property losses sustained by foreign investors.

The total revenues of Mexico during the Diaz regime, according to the informant, aggregated something like \$40,000,000, and with this income as a basis, it would take Mexico twenty years to make good its obligations.

### Will Take Longer.

But it will take the Madero administration, if it survives, much longer than that for the simple reason that the national income under Diaz was predicated on peaceful conditions and prosperous times. Mexico, with its country laid waste and foreign capital apprehensive of further turmoil, will not at once return to its former income.

Many of the foreign investors who have suffered financial loss have complained bitterly to their home governments because the United States, the only government having the legal right to interfere, has taken no action to protect their holdings.

### Railroad Complaints.

Similar complaint has been made by an English syndicate, under the control of Dr. Pierson, which owns the Mexican North Western Railroad Company. The railroad has suffered losses of hundreds of thousands of dollars through the burning of bridges, the seizure of rolling stock, the destruction of round-houses, and the tearing up of tracks.

The road is now again in operation, but during the time it was idle it suffered great losses. It is alleged, because of its inability to ship lumber and to transact its normal business. The road has great lumber mills at Torreon, Madero, and its shipments from these points to El Paso and other cities reach an aggregate of 800,000 feet of lumber a day.

### Rubber Company Quits.

The Continental Rubber Company, which has 2,000,000 acres at Torreon, has been forced to suspend operations. The company gathers the guayula plant, a sort of cactus, and manufactures rubber at Torreon. The plant has been shut down, and the manager, Wentworth Condit, has left the country.

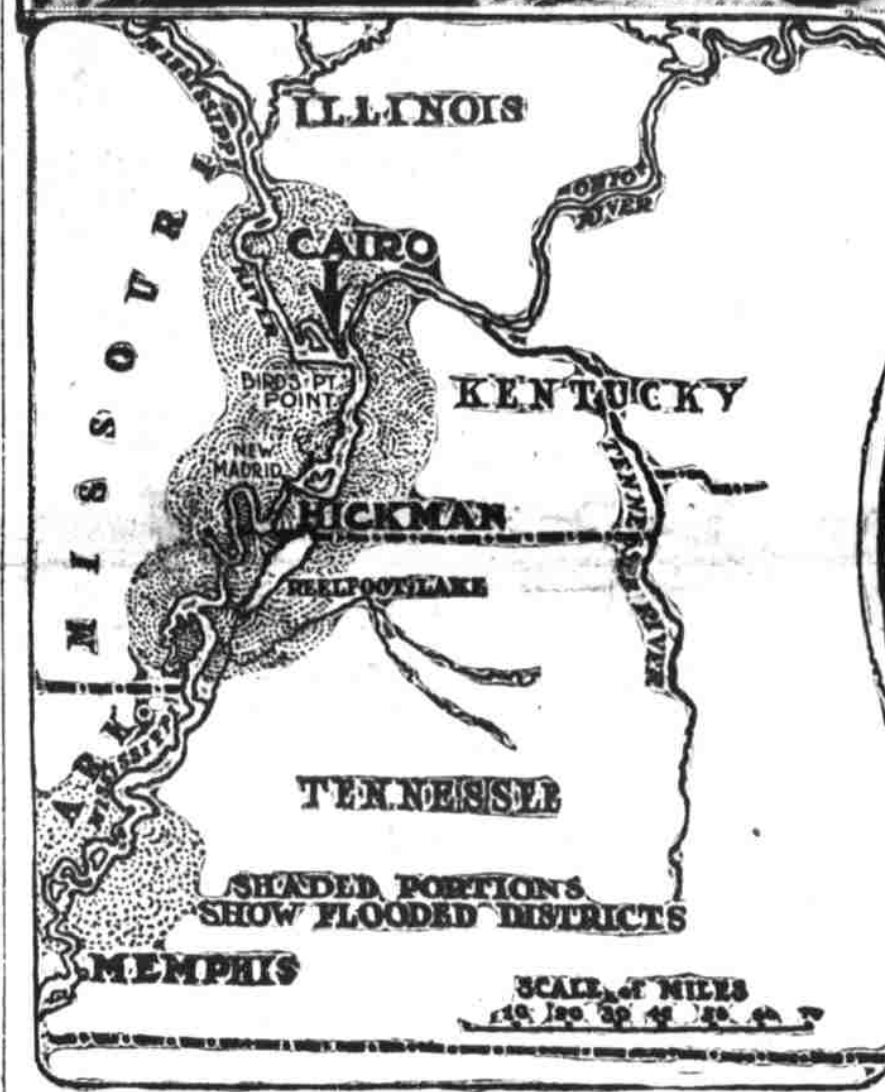
The Guggenheim smelter at Torreon and Chihuahua, which is affiliated with the American Smelting and Refining Company and employs 2,000 men regularly and as high as 4,000 men at times of great business activity, has also been closed. A similar condition exists at Sierra Mojada, near Escalon, as the smelters there. The Guggenheims are supposed to own the company. The firm has 100 miles of railroad, and this, too, has suffered through destruction of rolling stock and theft.

A dispatch to the State Department today says that the town of Tepic has been captured by revolutionists. The message came from the consul at Durango.

The news of the release of Powell Roberts, formerly a policeman at El Paso, has been confirmed in a telegram to the State Department.

It is also learned that Harry Conklin, of La Crosse, Wis., and the American thought captured at Lluvia de Oro are safe.

## Flood Scene, and Map of Region Now Devastated by River



MAP OF FLOODED DISTRICT.

## BRAINARD H. WARNER TO HEAD ANOTHER TRUST COMPANY

It Is to Have Capital Stock of  
\$1,000,000 and Surplus  
of \$100,000.

Brainard H. Warner, well known in financial and business circles, will head a new trust company, now in process of formation. The capital stock will be \$1,000,000, shares being sold at \$10 to give the institution a paid in surplus of \$100,000. The name of the corporation has not been fully decided upon, but the Columbia Trust Company is favored by Mr. Warner and his associates.

Mr. Warner has been prominent in Washington for many years. He came here in 1883. He was one of the committee of one hundred, to whose labors is largely attributed the present form of government of the District of Columbia. He organized the Columbia National Bank and the Columbia Trust Company, and the Columbia Fire Insurance Company. He was the first president of the two banking institutions he organized and is still a director and on the executive committee of both.

### Train Kills Laborer.

NEW YORK, April 6.—One track laborer was killed and eight others seriously injured when a train plowed through a group of workmen on the Portchester railway north of Williamsburg.



GOV. HOOPER OF TENNESSEE.

## PROUTY IS CAUSTIC IN CONDEMNING BILL TO AID POLICEMEN

Congressman Says Lobbyist,  
and Not Crossing Men,  
Benefited.

Congressman Prouty, a member of the House District Committee, issued a caustic statement today in which he declared that Congress would not have passed the bill putting crossing policemen on the same footing with regular members of the Metropolitan police force "had we known that this bill was to be largely for the benefit of a lobbyist and not for the policemen."

Mr. Prouty's statement was issued in explanation of the bill which he has introduced to require all paid lobbyists to acquaint Congress with the nature of their employment before appearing in the interest of any legislation. A second section provides that no civil service employee, policeman, or fireman shall make contributions to paid lobbyists.

John R. Shields, a Washington attorney, represented the crossing policemen in their recent successful efforts to obtain legislation which would raise their pay to the level of that of members of the regular force. Mr. Prouty's statement does not mention any names, but he says that it has developed that the attorney for the policemen made a contract for getting the bill through.

It was learned today that at a recent executive meeting of the District Committee the committee heard from a policeman the details of the contract made between Mr. Shields and the crossing policemen. Congressman Prouty forthwith introduced his bill.

It is understood that Mr. Shields takes the position that his contract with the policemen was a regular attorney's agreement, and that his representation of the cause of the crossing officers was nothing out of the ordinary.

### Darkness and Dawn

Begins Today on Page 10

## LEVEE OFFICIALS GIVE UP HOPE OF SAVING VALLEY

Raging Mississippi Momentarily  
Expected to Crush  
Through Dikes.

## FORECASTER EXPECTS BREAK AT MEMPHIS

With All Records Broken, Water  
Continues to Rise—Thousands  
Homeless.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., April 6.—Levee

officials and United States engineers have practically given up hope of saving the levee and the great St. Francis basin.

They threw up their hands in surrender when reports of threatened breaks came in from a dozen different points.

It is now believed only a question of hours until the levee lets go in some weakened place and hundreds of acres in Tennessee and Mississippi will be inundated. The water is lapping the top in scores of places and in many instances is pouring over into the low country.

### Will Try to Save Bridge.

United States Engineer Smith today asked the chief of police to round up men to be sent to Bridge Junction to stop a threatened break in the levee opposite Memphis. A break there might destroy the \$5,000,000 bridge across the river.

"We have no more data on which to make future predictions as to the extent of the rise," said Forecaster Emery today. "It is only a question of hours until the levee goes. The strain is too great."

The river stood at 44.9 today, but the crest of the rise is not in sight for several days. Forty-six or forty-seven feet is probable, unless breaks relieve the pressure. Exactly the whole eastern part of Arkansas is partly covered by back water today. This section has been depopulated in the past few days. Thousands of refugees are arriving in Memphis and are quartered in public buildings and private homes.

### Town Under Water.

Marked Tree, Ark., is under water. Osceola is nearly flooded and a call for aid was sent out from there today. The levee in front of Osceola is threatened, and a break there would wipe out the town of 1,000 inhabitants. All east Arkansas towns are cut off from railroad communication.

Lake county, Tenn., is an inland sea today from the break below Hickman. Each hour the situation grows nearer to a point beyond human endurance. The farmers are hurriedly gathering their families, live stock and such household goods as can be moved quickly and moving to higher ground. Warnings have been sent broadcast in this section.

At Alton, Ill., and Wyanoke, conditions are hourly becoming worse. For a distance of nearly 300 yards the waters have reached tops of the levees and are only being held back by sand bags. Reports here today say the break in the great Government levee south of Hickman, Ky., is becoming larger, and the entire Reel Foot Lake farming district is under water, with a possible loss of life and fast did life water spread that it is feared many of the inhabitants may have been cut off in their homes and drowned. Every effort is being made to get help to the district, but already 150 square miles of country is covered with water.

The chief hope that the loss of life may be small is in the fact that the inhabitants had warning when the levee broke for the first time late Wednesday, that the workers would probably be unable to hold the levee. Warnings (Continued on Eleventh Page.)

## IN CONGRESS TODAY

### SENATE.

Senate not in session today. Will meet Monday.

Reply of President on Magdalena bay, expected next week, likely to lead to wide range of discussion.

District Committee makes adverse report on bill to reorganize Municipal Court.

### HOUSE.

House met at noon. District Committee held a hearing on Lewis bill.

Congressman Prouty issued statement regarding his bill to restrict lobbying. Congressman Clayton and Randall entered in verbal clash on floor concerning Randall's bill prohibiting members from accepting corporation employment.

Debate was resumed on Indian appropriation bill.

### White House Callers.

### SENATORS.

Smith, Mich. Brandegee, Conn.

Gamble, S. Dak. Stephenson, Wis.

Jones, Wash. Lea, Tenn.

Pomeroy, Ohio. Root, N. Y.

### CONGRESSMEN.

Gardner, Mass. James, Ky.

Shirley, Mass. Jones, Ind.

Rucker, Mo. Catlin, Mo.

Good, Iowa. McLaughlin, Mich.

Garrett, Tenn. Y.

OTHER CALLERS.

Governor Marshall, Ind.

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